

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 01322 01 OF 02 080449Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----053599 080456Z /23

O 080413Z APR 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0564

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01322

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE

SUBJECT: PM BEGIN'S RESPONSE TO SYG WALDHEIM

1. LETTER (REPRODUCED BELOW) DATED APRIL 7 FROM PM  
BEGIN TO SYG WALDHEIM WAS DELIVERED TO UN SECRETARIAT  
AT 4:00 PM ON APRIL 7. ISRAELI MISSION PROVIDED US  
COMPLIMENTARY COPY WITH COMMENT THAT ISRAELIS DID NOT  
WISH CONTENTS OF LETTER TO BECOME PUBLIC BUT ASSUMED  
FACT OF ITS DELIVERY WOULD BECOME KNOWN THROUGH THE  
UN. (ANNOUNCEMENT OF DELIVERY WAS IN FACT MADE AT UN  
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ABOUT 6:30 PM.) USUN RECEIVED ONLY COPY OUTSIDE OF  
THAT DELIVERED TO UN. COMMENT: AFTER DISCUSSION WITH  
DEPT, AMB LEONARD IS ATTEMPTING TO REACH AMB HERZOG TO  
CONFIRM THAT LETTER WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC, AS WE  
THINK IT COULD BE UNHELPFUL.)

2. IN DISCUSSING LETTER WITH AMB LEONARD, AMB HERZOG

REVIEWED CONVERSATION ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL PLANS BETWEEN SIILASVUO AND ISRAELI CHIEF OF STAFF GUR AND REPEATEDLY CHARACTERIZED SIILASVUO'S COMMENTS AS INDICATING SATISFACTION WITH THOSE PLANS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS REPRESENTS DISHONEST REPORTING OF MEETING OR HONEST MISPERCEPTION OF SIILASVUO'S VIEWS BY ISRAEL. WE CONSIDER IT OF SOME IMPORTANCE, HOWEVER, IF ISRAELI LEADERS ARE UNDER FALSE IMPRESSION THAT SIILASVUO IS SATISFIED WITH WITHDRAWAL PLANS SO FAR, SINCE SUCH MISUNDERSTANDING COULD UNDERCUT EFFORTS BEING MADE TO GET GOI TO SPEED UP WITHDRAWAL AND COULD LEAD TO DIFFICULTIES IN ISRAELI RELATIONS WITH UN AT LATER STAGE.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF BEGIN LETTER. BEGIN TEXT:

- EXCELLENCY,
- THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF APRIL 5, 1978.
- I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE, TOO, ARE INTERESTED IN THE SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 425, AND THAT WE SHARE YOUR INTEREST IN CREATING OPTIMAL CONDITIONS FOR THE EFFICIENT FUNCTIONING OF UNIFIL IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, WITH THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING STABILITY IN THE REGION - THIS  
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BEING CLEARLY IN ISRAEL'S OWN INTEREST - AND IN GIVING PROPER EXPRESSION TO LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY.

- YOU ARE AWARE OF ISRAEL'S WISH TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON AS SPEEDILY AS POSSIBLE. THIS POSITION WAS EXPLAINED TO GENERAL SIILASVUO AT HIS MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AS EARLY AS MARCH 20, 1978. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS INTENTION IS, OF COURSE, CONDITIONAL UPON THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES IN THE AREA, AS SET OUT IN THE MEETING BETWEEN THE CHIEF-OF-STAFF AND GENERAL SIILASVUO ON MARCH 27. AT THIS MEETING, THE CHIEF-OF-STAFF AGAIN AFFIRMED THAT ISRAEL WILL EVACUATE ITS TROOPS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONSOLIDATION OF UNITED NATIONS FORCES IN THE AREA, IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PREVENT THE CREATION OF ANY MANNER OF VACUUM, LIABLE TO IMPAIR THE PURPOSE OF ASSURING PEACE AND SECURITY.
- TO OUR REGRET, THE STATIONING OF UNIFIL IN SOUTHERN LEBANON HAS ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES NOT OF ITS MAKING, AND PREPARATIONS ARE NOT YET COMPLETED BY THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE ENTIRE

FORCE IN THE AREA. THOSE UNITS WHICH HAVE ALREADY REACHED SOUTHERN LEBANON ARE STILL HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING COMPLETE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE AREA UNDER THEIR RESPONSIBILITY.

- UP TO NOW ONLY TWO OF THE PROPOSED FIVE BATTALIONS ARE DEPLOYED. IN THIS CONNECTION IT SHOULD

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O 080413Z APR 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0565  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01322

EXDIS

BE RECALLED THAT EVEN THE PROPOSED FULL COMPLEMENT OF FIVE BATTALIONS IS FAR LESS THAN DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. I WOULD FURTHER POINT OUT IN THIS CONNECTION THE REPEATED STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN OF THE SO-CALLED P.L.O. TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS, THAT THEY INTEND TO CONTINUE THEIR ATTACKS FROM SOUTH LEBANON ON ISRAELI TARGETS AND CIVILIANS.

- THIS NOTWITHSTANDING, WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR

WILLINGNESS TO COMMENCE THE EVACUATION OF OUR FORCES  
EVEN PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF ALL  
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THE UNIFIL FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE ISRAEL  
MILITARY AUTHORITIES DURING VARIOUS MEETINGS WITH YOUR  
REPRESENTATIVES IN THE AREA, INCLUDING THE MEETING OF  
THE CHIEF-OF-STAFF WITH GENERAL SIILASVUO ON APRIL 2,  
HAVE SET OUT IN DETAIL THE PLANS FOR THE FIRST STAGE  
OF THE WITHDRAWAL. THIS FIRST STAGE HAS ALREADY  
BEGUN, WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE NORWEGIAN BATTALION  
IN THE EASTERN SECTOR.

- AT A FURTHER MEETING OF THE CHIEF-OF-STAFF WITH  
GENERAL SIILASVUO ON APRIL 6 (SUBSEQUENT TO THE DIS-  
PATCH OF YOUR LETTER), FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS WERE MADE.  
AT THE SAME TIME, THE CHIEF-OF-STAFF EMPHASISED THAT  
SOME OF THE PROBLEMS PENDING, THE SOLUTIONS OF WHICH ARE  
IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE, COULD BE OVERCOME IF CONTACTS  
COULD BE MADE WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AT THE  
HIGHEST LEVEL, AS WE HAVE REQUESTED. IN ANY CASE, THE  
CHIEF-OF-STAFF EXPLAINED AT THAT MEETING THAT IN VIEW  
OF GENERAL SIILASVUO'S STATEMENT THAT THE NORWEGIAN  
BATTALION WILL COMPLETE ITS DEPLOYMENT WITHIN 24 TO 48  
HOURS, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO COMMENCE EVACUATION OF  
ISRAEL FORCES IN THIS SECTOR AND IN THE CENTRAL  
SECTOR BY NEXT WEEK.

- AT THE SAME TIME, THE CHIEF-OF-STAFF PRESENTED TO  
GENERAL SIILASVUO A TIME-TABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THIS WITHDRAWAL. IT WAS FURTHER DECIDED BETWEEN THE  
TWO TO HOLD AN ADDITIONAL MEETING IN A WEEK'S TIME,  
WHEN THE FIRST STAGE OF THE WITHDRAWAL WILL BE COMPLETED,  
IN ORDER TO DISCUSS CONTINUATION OF THE PROCESS.

- I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE MAINTAINING CLOSE  
CONTACT WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE AREA AS PART OF  
A CONTINUING EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
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SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 425.

- IN VIEW OF THE FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS GIVEN TO  
GENERAL SIILASVUO AT HIS MEETING WITH THE CHIEF-OF-STAFF  
ON APRIL 6, I AM CONVINCED THAT OUR PROPOSALS ARE  
FULLY IN ACCORD WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF SECURITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION 425 AND WITH THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LETTER TO

ME.

- PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY  
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END TEXT. LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**TAGS:** PORG, MARR, IS, LE, UNSC, (WALDHEIM, KURT), (BEGIN, MENACHEM)  
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